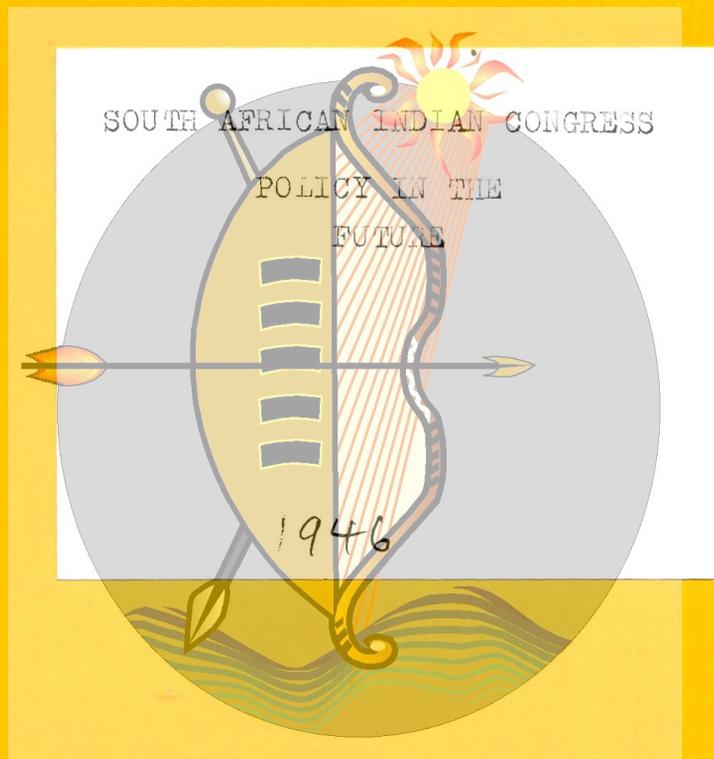


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POLICY IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN
CONGRESS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

The growing demand of the Indian masses for democratic rights has reached the stage where mass agitation must now give way to some form of mass action. This struggle has become more acute in view of the Government's surrender to reactionary, anti-democratic elements evident in its new proposals for the "GHETTO" Bill.

The Conference of the South African Indian Congress held recently at Cape Town resolved unanimously to resist this measure. Resistance was planned in the following way:-

1. A deputation to be sent to the Government of India to secure its support for a Round Table Conference with the Government of South Africa, failing which the Government of India to break off diplomatic relations and to impose economic sanctions and to seek to get the matter before the Security Council of UNO.
2. Mass resistance by the Indian people to be organised in South Africa.
3. A deputation to proceed to England and America for propaganda purposes.

The deputation to India has left already. The only progressive member has withdrawn. The deputation to the West is due to leave shortly.

Since the Union Government has already refused a Round Table Conference with the Government of India, this deputation may offer, as a prior secret understanding, a compromise based on the Pretoria Agreement, in order to try and change the attitude of the Union Government.

This possibility can be prevented only by pursuing the campaign of mass resistance with the utmost vigour. It is correct, therefore, for the progressive member in each of these deputations to withdraw in order to concentrate on this aspect of the struggle.

The organisation of resistance must be undertaken immediately. The peculiar position of the Indian people in the economic structure of this country places serious limitations upon the manner in which such a struggle may be carried out. In the first place, a struggle of such a nature as to be able to bring mass pressure effectively to bear on the Government is not possible. The struggle will show (a) the total opposition of the South African Indian people to the new "GHETTO" Bill and (b) the determination to crystallize this opposition into some form of positive action. It will be, in the main, an instrument of propaganda through which world pressure may be exerted and the whole Indian question posed internationally. At the present time, one can only visualise such a struggle taking the form of non-violent passive resistance.

The starting point of this resistance must be in Natal where rights hitherto possessed and exercised are now to be taken away.

The immediate cause of this struggle is the "GHETTO" Bill. It will be most effective, therefore, if the struggle is launched when the Bill is passed into law.

The method of resistance must be carefully planned so that the struggle continues and expands. Elements that have no faith in mass struggle must be robbed of any power to weaken or undermine this campaign. Progressive leaders in the Transvaal and the Cape must therefore continue working for a virile progressive leadership in the Congresses in these Provinces.

Mass resistance of the Indian people will have repercussions within and without South Africa.

In South Africa, it will be followed closely by the other non-European communities. It may inspire similar action against oppressive laws. These parallel struggles may eventually be merged into one embodying the demand of all sections. It is our duty to work for such non-European unity.

In India the work of the Deputation, while it is there, will be tremendously strengthened and attempts at compromise correspondingly weakened, by the launching of such a campaign of struggle. Even after this Deputation has returned the fact that mass resistance is continuing undiminished will act as a recurring incentive to the Indian people to push this question in the forefront of international politics.

The deputation to England and America will find its task rendered simple while an active struggle continues in this country. World opinion will be mustered with less effort while Indian resistance within South Africa persists and expands. The struggle will be the vitalising principle that focus world attention upon South Africa and its treatment of the non-white peoples.

It is expected that the deputation to India will be returning to this country in about three months. While the campaign will be launched shortly, it will be properly under way about that time. At the height of the campaign, it will be necessary for a further deputation to proceed to India primarily to secure adequate material support for the campaign. This deputation should be as strong as possible and should be able to state the Indian case forcibly.

To summarise:

1. Dr. Y. M. Dadoo and M. D. Naidoo cannot be released for any overseas delegation at the present time;
2. The S. A. I. C. deputations must not be disowned or hampered in any way in carrying out the S. A. I. C. resolution;
3. Steps must be taken immediately for a prolonged campaign of non-violent passive resistance;
4. The S. A. I. C. must be so strengthened as to make it impossible to weaken its policy; this involves working for a progressive leadership in the Cape and Transvaal Indian Congresses;
5. A further deputation must be sent to India at the height of the struggle.